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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Submission to NSC for Briefing Book for Former Presidents

Executive Register

CA-387

FROM:

Richard J. Kerr
ADDI

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

20 January 1984

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. DDCI *EC* 24 JAN 1984

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L-299A



Central Intelligence Agency
Office of the Deputy Director for Intelligence

20 January 1984

NOTE FOR: DCI
DDCI **24 JAN 1984**

FROM : ADDI

The NSC Staff asked for help in putting together a briefing book for former Presidents. Attached are the intelligence inputs requested by the NSC. The book also will include some policy sections. We will be providing publications assistance as well.



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SECRET**MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AT A GLANCE (SECTION I, (B))**

Terrorist attacks dominated the news during the last three months of 1983. In October, a truck bomb killed more than 240 Marines in Beirut and sniping attacks and threats continued into the new year. Most of the violence was caused by Iranian Shia organizations, but some evidence suggests Syrian and Palestinian complicity. Other terrorist organizations around the world seemed to be activated by the Beirut bombing, and we received dozens of reports on terrorist plans directed against US personnel and installations.

USSR

The Soviets walked out of arms control talks following the US deployment of INF missiles in Europe. Moscow has continued its war of words aimed at having the Europeans renege on the missile deal. At the same time, it has accentuated a policy of armed might and counterdeployment. The Soviets may now believe this spring is an opportune time for an INF initiative, but it is possible they will wait until after US elections before returning to negotiations.

Soviet leader Andropov, who has not been seen in public for several months, apparently remains in charge of Soviet policy. Andropov suffers from chronic coronary heart disease and hypertension requiring intermittent periods of medically supervised rest. The exact nature of the health setback he suffered in October still is not known to us

. We thought he would make his long awaited appearance at the Central Committee Plenum last month, but his illness kept him away. We believe he must soon show renewed vigor to counter a growing image of impotence.

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MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East continues to be dominated by Lebanon and the Iran/Iraq war. In Beirut, President Gemayel's efforts to forge a more representative government failed to achieve a breakthrough, principally because of Syrian opposition to the Lebanese-Israeli peace treaty. The Syrians have continued to stockpile new Soviet military equipment and are unmoved by US, Israeli, and French threats and retaliation missions. Radical Shia groups backed by Iran and Syria, meanwhile, have gained increased visibility, and perhaps even popular support, because of their successful terrorist campaign.

Yasir Arafat's defeat in Tripoli complicates the Palestinian situation. Arafat may be willing to deal with King Hussein and

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